IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A recording and/or reproducing device comprising:

an optical pickup having an objective lens and provided to be movable in ~~the~~ a radial direction of an optical disc;

a guide portion for guiding the movement of the optical pickup in the radial direction of the optical disc, the guide portion includes a supporting shaft for guiding the optical pickup,

a reference portion abutted at least two positions of an outer circumferential portion of the supporting shaft for positioning the supporting shaft,

an engagement portion engaged with an outer circumferential portion of the supporting shaft,

an elastic displacement portion formed integrally with the engagement portion for energizing the engagement portion in a radial direction of the supporting shaft,

wherein the elastic displacement portion is bent from a direction substantially parallel to an axial direction of the supporting shaft to a direction substantially orthogonal to the axial direction of the supporting shaft thereby energizing the engagement portion in the radial direction of the supporting shaft;

a first rack portion provided on the optical pickup;

a slide member having an opening/closing portion for opening/closing a facing surface of the objective lens to the optical disc, and a second rack portion provided to be slidable on the first rack portion; and

a driving mechanism having a driving gear which meshes with the first rack portion and the second rack portion;

wherein when the first and second rack portions are driven by the driving gear and the optical pickup is thus moved to a predetermined position, the meshing state of the first rack portion with the driving gear is canceled and the second rack portion is driven by the driving gear to move the slide member, thereby moving the opening/closing portion from a position for opening the facing surface side of the objective lens to a position for closing the facing surface side.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the optical pickup has reached a predetermined position on ~~the~~ an inner circle side of the optical disc, the meshing state of the driving gear with the first rack portion is canceled.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a detecting section for detecting that the optical pickup has reached ~~a~~ the predetermined position on the inner circle side of the optical disc.

Claim 4 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the detecting section is operated by the optical pickup when the optical pickup has reached at least a position in a table-of-contents area of the optical disc.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a control section for driving a driving motor for a predetermined time period on ~~the~~ a basis of a detection output from the detecting section.

Claim 6 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein as the driving motor is driven for a predetermined time period, the optical pickup is moved further toward the inner circle side of the optical disc.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a regulating portion to which the optical pickup is abutted and which is adapted for regulating ~~the~~ movement of the optical disc, wherein as the optical pickup is abutted against the regulating portion and has its movement regulated by the regulating portion, the meshing state of the first rack portion with the driving gear is canceled.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one protrusion is provided on the slide member and an abutment portion to be abutted against the protrusion is provided on the optical pickup, and wherein as the second rack portion is moved by ~~the~~ a driving motor in a direction such that the opening/closing portion opens the facing surface side, thus abutting the protrusion against the abutment portion, the first rack portion is meshed with the driving gear.

Claim 9 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising an elastic member tensioned between the first-rack portion and the second rack portion.

Claim 10 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 9, wherein as the first rack portion is meshed with the driving gear, the slide member is slid and the protrusion and the abutment portion are moved away from each other.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A recording and/or reproducing device ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

an optical pickup having an objective lens and provided to be movable in a radial direction of an optical disc; ~~wherein~~ the optical pickup ~~further has~~ having a cover which has an aperture formed therein at a position facing the objective lens and which is adapted for at least covering the objective lens [[,]] ~~and wherein the opening/closing portion moves on the cover between the position for opening the facing surface and the position for closing the facing surface, thereby opening/closing the aperture~~;

a first rack portion provided on the optical pickup;

a slide member having an opening/closing portion for opening/closing a facing surface of the objective lens to the optical disc, and a second rack portion provided to be slidable on the first rack portion; and

a driving mechanism having a driving gear which meshes with the first rack portion and the second rack portion;

wherein when the first and second rack portions are driven by the driving gear and the optical pickup is thus moved to a predetermined position the meshing state of the first rack portion with the driving gear is canceled and the second rack portion is driven by the driving gear to move the slide member, thereby moving the opening/closing portion on the cover from a position for opening the facing surface side of the objective lens to a position for closing the facing surface side, thereby closing the aperture.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a regulating portion to which the optical pickup moved toward ~~the~~ an inner-circle of the optical disc is abutted and which is adapted for regulating the

movement of the optical pickup, wherein as the optical pickup is abutted against the regulating portion and has its movement regulated by the regulating portion, the meshing state of the first rack portion with the driving gear is canceled.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ a driving motor is driven in a direction for moving the optical pickup further toward the inner circle, the second rack portion is driven and the slide member is moved, thus moving the opening/closing portion from the position for opening the facing surface side of the objective lens to the position for closing the facing surface side.

Claim 14 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 13, wherein when the optical pickup has been moved to at least a position in a table-of-contents area of the optical disc, the driving motor is driven for a predetermined time period in the direction for moving the optical pickup further toward the inner circle.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a detecting section for detecting that the optical pickup has been moved to at least a position in the table-of-contents area of the optical disc, and a control section for driving the driving motor for a predetermined time period in the direction for moving the optical pickup further toward the inner circle, on the basis of ~~the~~ a detection result from the detecting section.

Claim 16 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the control section has a timer circuit for timing the predetermined time period.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least one protrusion is provided on the slide member and an abutment portion to be abutted against the protrusion is provided on the optical pickup, and wherein as the second rack portion is moved by ~~the~~ a driving motor in a direction such that the opening/closing portion opens the facing surface side, thus abutting the protrusion against the abutment portion, the first rack portion is meshed with the driving gear.

Claim 18 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising an elastic member tensioned between the first rack portion and the second rack portion.

Claim 19 (Original): The recording and/or reproducing device as claimed in claim 18, wherein as the first rack portion is meshed with the driving gear, the slide member is slid and the protrusion and the abutment portion are moved away from each other.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An optical pickup device comprising:

an optical pickup section having an objective lens and provided to be movable along a guide portion configured to guide the movement of the optical pickup section in the radial direction of the optical disk, the guide portion including:

a supporting shaft for guiding the optical pickup section,

a reference portion abutted at least at two positions of an outer circumferential portion of the supporting shaft for positioning the supporting shaft,

an engagement portion engaged with the outer circumferential portion of the supporting shaft, and

an elastic displacement portion formed integrally with the engagement portion for energizing the engagement portion in the radial direction of the supporting shaft,

wherein the elastic displacement portion is bent from a direction substantially parallel to the axial direction of the supporting shaft to a direction substantially orthogonal to the axial direction of the supporting shaft, thereby energizing the engagement portion in the radial direction of the supporting shaft;

a first rack portion provided on the optical pickup section;

a slide member having an opening/closing portion for opening/closing a facing surface of the objective lens to an optical disc, and a second rack portion provided to be slidable on the first rack portion; and

a driving mechanism having a driving gear which meshes with the first rack portion and the second rack portion;

wherein when the first and second rack portions are driven by the driving gear and the optical pickup section is thus moved to a predetermined position, the meshing state of the first rack portion with the driving gear is canceled and the second rack portion is driven by the driving gear to move the slide member, thereby moving the opening/closing portion from a position for opening the facing surface side of the objective lens to a position for closing the facing surface side.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The optical pickup device as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least one protrusion is provided on the slide member and an abutment portion to be abutted against the protrusion is provided on the optical pickup section, and wherein as the second rack portion is moved by ~~the~~ a driving motor in a direction such that the opening/closing portion opens the facing surface side, thus abutting the protrusion against the abutment portion, the first rack portion is meshed with the driving gear.

Claim 22 (Original): The optical pickup device as claimed in claim 21, further comprising an elastic member tensioned between the first rack portion and the second rack portion.

Claim 23 (Original): The optical pickup device as claimed in claim 22, wherein as the first rack portion is meshed with the driving gear, the slide member is slid and the protrusion and the abutment portion are moved away from each other.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ An optical pickup device ~~as claimed in claim 20, wherein~~ comprising:

an optical pickup section having an objective lens and provided to be movable along a guide portion, the optical pickup section ~~further has~~ having a cover which has an aperture formed therein at a position facing the objective lens and which is adapted for at least covering the objective lens,

a first rack portion provided on the optical pickup section;

a slide member having an opening/closing portion for opening/closing a facing surface of the objective lens to an optical disc, and a second rack portion provided to be slidable on the first rack portion, and

~~wherein the opening/closing portion moves on the cover between the position for opening the facing surface and the position for closing the facing surface, thus opening/closing the aperture~~

a driving mechanism having a driving gear which meshes with the first rack portion and second rack portion;

wherein when the first and second rack portions are driven by the driving gear and the optical pickup section is thus moved to a predetermined position the meshing state of the first rack portion with the driving gear is canceled and the second rack portion is driven by the driving gear to move the slide member thereby moving the opening/closing portion on the cover from a position for opening the facing surface side of the objective lens to a position for closing the facing surface side, thus closing the aperture.

Claims 25-35 (Canceled).